

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 01346 111612Z

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1346

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON, YO, NATO

SUBJ: ECONADS: REPORT ON RECENT TRENDS IN YUGOSLAV ECONOMY

REF: A. STATE 31396

B. USNATO 806

1. UK DELEGATION SENT LETTER TO MEMBERS OF ECONOMIC COMMITTEE COMMENTING ON US MEMORANDUM ON DRAFT REPORT ON YUGOSLAV ECONOMY (AC/127-WP/413 AND CORRIGENDUM). US MEMORANDUM WAS BASED ON WASHINGTON'S COMMENTS (REF. A), AND IS BEING USED BY ECONOMIC DIRECTORATE TO REDRAFT REPORT FOR CONSIDERATION BY COMMITTEE.

2. AT FEB. 13 MEETING, WHEN YUGOSLAV PAPER LAST CONSIDERED BY ECONOMIC COMMITTEE, ECONADS AGREED QUERY GOVERNMENTS TO DETERMINE IF EXPERTS MEETING APRIL 10 WOULD BE FEASIBLE (REF. B, PARAS 2 AND 3). PLEASE ADVISE.

3. TEXT OF UK LETTER RE US COMMENTS ON YUGOSLAV PAPER FOLLOWS: BEGIN QUOTE:
"IN REVISING THE PAPER ON YUGOSLAVIA (AC127/WP/413), YOUR STAFF MAY LIKE TO HAVE SOME COMMENTS WHICH I HAVE RECEIVED FROM OUR DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE ON MR. GOODSPEED'S LETTER OF 12 FEBRUARY.
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NATO 01346 111612Z

2) IN GENERAL, WHILE THEY AGREE ON THE DESIRABILITY OF UP-DATING THE REPORT, MUCH OF THE ORIGINAL PAPER ALTHOUGH BASED ON 1973 FIGURES IS STILL VALID.

3) SPECIFIC POINTS ON THE AMERICAN COMMENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

PARA A4: OUR FIGURES FOR THE NUMBER OF WORKERS RETURNING HOME IN 1974 ARE NEARER 30,000.

A7: WE BELIEVE THAT THE PAPER IS HARSH TO TALK OF "POLITICAL OPPORTUNISM" BUT NEVERTHELESS THERE WAS UNDOUBTED GOVERNMENT CONCERN AT THE EFFECT THAT A DECLINE IN REAL EARNINGS WOULD HAVE ON INTS POSITION.

A12-14: WE AGREE THAT THIS SECTION IS CONFUSING AND SUGGEST THAT PARA 14 SHOULD BE REWRITTEN.

B15: WE ARE NOT SURE THAT THIS PARAGRAPH NECESSARILY IMPLIES WHAT THE AMERICANS SAY IT DOES. HOWEVER, THE SECOND SENTENCE SI WRONG TO IMPLY A RAPID EXPANSION OF THE SO-CALLED TRADITIONAL INDUSTRIES.

B20: RATHER THAN DELETE THE LAST SENTENCES, PERHAPS SOME ATTEMPT COULD BE MADE TO ANSWER THE QUESTIONS POSED BY THEM.

B28: WE ARE NOT CERTAIN THAT POLAND ALREADY CHARGES WORLD PRICES TO YUGOSLAVIA; BUT SHE PROBABLY DID FORM 1 JANUARY 1975 WHEN HARD CURRENCY SETTLEMENT CAME INTO EFFECT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

B30: WE DO NOT THINK THAT THIS PARAGRAPH NEED BE DELETED, ALTHOUGH PERHAPS IT IS NOT VERY WELL EXPRESSED. THE ORIGINAL TEXT APPEARS TO BE TRYING TO RECONCILE PLANNED REFINING CAPACITY WITH WHAT THE YUGOSLAVS WOULD DO WITH THE RESULTANT OIL PRODUCTS. THEY SEEM TO BE PLANNING TO COPY THE ROMANIANS AND IMPORT CRUDE TO EXPORT PRODUCTS - PRESEMAPLY TO THE HARD CURRENCY AREA.

4) I AM COPYING THIS TO OUR COLLEAGUES ON THE COMMITTEE.."
END QUOTE:BRUCE

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